IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

a planned start time storing unit storing the set planned start time; and

a schedule execution controlling unit controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

2. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

a planned start time storing unit storing the set planned start time; and

a schedule execution controlling unit controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names; and

a planned start time changing unit changing a planned start time of a schedule when it is determined that the schedule uses a base time name, the changing using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit.

3. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by

a computer managing execution of a plurality of schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a first planned start time for a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage, wherein the ~~second~~ first schedule having a dependency on the ~~first~~ second schedule;

a planned start time storing unit storing the first planned start time, the second planned start time and the offset time;

a schedule execution control unit controlling an execution start of the first and second schedules by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit;

a detecting unit detecting an end time of the execution of the ~~first~~ second schedule; and

a planned start time updating unit updating the ~~second~~ first planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit based on the detected end time and the stored offset time.

4. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

a planned start time setting unit setting a first planned start time for a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage;

a planned start time storing unit storing the first planned start time, the second planned start time and the offset time; and

a schedule execution control unit controlling an execution start of the first and second schedules by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing unit, and

a planned start time changing unit changing the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the changed end time and the offset, when the end time of the second schedule is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing unit.

5. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing method implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time where said base

time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing method managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

6. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing ~~apparatus~~ method implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

~~a planned start time setting unit~~ setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

~~a planned start time storing unit~~ storing the set planned start time; and

~~a schedule execution controlling unit~~ controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing ~~contents~~ the stored ~~in said~~ planned start time ~~storing unit~~;

resetting a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that the schedule uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

7. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing method implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

8. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing method implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a first schedule by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time; resetting the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the end time after change and the offset from the end time, when the end time of the second schedule is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time.

9. (Previously presented) A computer- readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process for managing execution of one more schedules, said process comprising:

setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

storing the set planned start time; controlling an execution start. of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said process for managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names;

resetting a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that is uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

10. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process for managing execution of one or more schedules, said process comprising:

setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a

first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

storing the set planned start time;

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time;

resetting the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the end time after change and the offset from the end time, when the end time of the second schedule is changed;

storing the reset planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

11. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

planned start time setting means for setting a planned start time of a schedule which is to be determined by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

planned start time storing means for storing the set planned start time;

schedule execution controlling means for controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing means, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing apparatus managing execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names; and

a planned start time changing means for changing a planned start time of a schedule which is determined that is uses a base time name using the changed base time and the offset, when the base time is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing means, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

12. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing apparatus implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

planned start time setting means for setting a planned start time of a first schedule which is to be determined by specifying a first offset from an end time of a second schedule where a

start time of the second schedule is specified by a base time name having a corresponding base time and a second offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offsets are stored in a storage, wherein the first schedule having a dependency on the second schedule;

planned start time storing means for storing the set planned start time;

schedule execution controlling means for controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing contents stored in said planned start time storing means; and

a planned start time changing means for changing the planned start time of the first schedule which is determined that it has the dependency on the second schedule using the changed end time and the offset, when the end time of the second schedule is changed, and rewriting the planned start time stored in said planned start time storing means, so that event schedules are changed only when the planned start time requires changes.

13. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing method implemented by a computer managing execution of one or more schedules, comprising:

setting a planned start time of a schedule by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

storing the set planned start time; and

controlling an execution start of the schedule by referencing the stored planned start time, wherein the base time having a base time name and said schedule execution managing method manages execution of one or more schedules using one or more base time names.

14. (Currently amended) A schedule execution managing method implemented by a computer managing execution of two or more schedules including a first schedule and a related second schedule, comprising:

setting a planned start time of the first schedule by specifying a base time name having a corresponding base time and an offset from said base time, where said base time name, base time and offset are stored in a storage;

storing the set planned start time;

updating the related second schedule responsive to the base time name; and

controlling an execution start of the first schedule by referencing the stored planned start time and controlling execution of the second schedule responsive to the updating.